

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 22, 2007, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the above amendments and following remarks.

I. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 8, 9 AND 14

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 8, 9 and 14 were objected to because of several alleged informalities. Applicant appreciates the Examiner identification of these informalities and has amended each of the claims as requested.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 8, 9 and 14 be withdrawn.

II. THE DOUBLE-PATENTING REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8-10, 14, 21, 22, 27, 32, 33, 38-42

On pages 3-18 of the Office Action, claims 8-10, 14, 21, 22, 27, 32, 33, 38-42 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over claims 20, 21, 26 and 28-30 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/813,234.

To expedite the prosecution of the present patent application toward finality, this rejection is hereby respectfully traversed with the filing of a terminal disclaimer concurrently herewith. It should be noted, however, that the filing of a terminal disclaimer in the present patent application does not constitute an admission of the propriety of the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection. See MPEP § 804.02 and Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

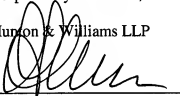
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

By:


Ozzie A. Farres
Registration No. 43,606

Hunton & Williams LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1500
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201

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